CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

5   1. A method for brokering a transaction between a plurality of wireless

communication devices, comprising the steps of:

a)   enabling each wireless device to communicate with all other similarly

enabled wireless devices;

b)   allowing a user to enter a request related to an object to be brokered into a

first enabled wireless device;

c)   exchanging the request related to the object with a plurality of enabled

wireless devices;

d)   receiving a response to the request by a third party facilitator from a user of a

wireless device interested in completing the transaction; and

e)   completing the transaction by the third party facilitator.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of wireless devices are Bluetooth

enabled devices.

20   3. The method of claim 1, wherein the enabling step (a) further comprises the steps

of:

a1)   loading a software application into the first wireless device.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein the software application instructs the first wireless device to automatically establish communications with the plurality of enabled wireless devices.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein the exchanging step (c) further comprises the step of:

   c1)   determining whether each one of the first plurality of enabled wireless devices would like to receive the request.

6. The method of claim 4, further including the step of providing the request as a transaction record for the object, wherein the transaction record includes an item description, price information, expiration time and date, contact information for the third party facilitator, and identifying information for the user of the first wireless device.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the third party facilitator is coupled to an Internet, the method further including the step of providing the contact information for the facilitator as a web address.

8. The method of claim 6, wherein the exchanging step (c) further includes the steps of:

   c1)   transmitting the request to a first plurality of enabled wireless devices;

   c2)   for each one of the plurality of enabled wireless devices receiving the request, modifying the request before transmitting the request on to other

wireless devices, wherein the modified request conceals the identifying information of a user of the wireless device from which the request was received; and

c3) transmitting the modified request from each of the first plurality of enabled wireless devices to a second plurality of enabled wireless devices.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein the transmitting step (c3) further comprises the step of:

(c3i) determining whether each one of the second plurality of enabled wireless devices would like to receive the modified request.

10. The method of claim 8, wherein the step of modifying the request (c2) further includes the steps of:

(c2i) modifying the transaction record by changing the price information to create a profit for the one enabled wireless device's involvement in the transaction;

(c2ii) encrypting the identifying information for the user of the wireless device from which the request was received; and

(c2iii) appending to the modified transaction record unencrypted identifying information for the user of the one enabled wireless device.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein the exchanging instruction (c) further includes the steps of:

c4)　repeating steps (c2) and (c3) until the user of the wireless device interested in completing the transaction responds to the request.

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12. The method of claim 12, wherein the identifying information includes an address to a website of the user and a pointer to a public key associated with the user in the website.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein the transaction completing step (e), further includes the steps of:

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e1)　receiving a final transaction record from the user of the wireless device interested in completing the transaction, wherein the final transaction record includes final price information, the encrypted identifying information for the user of each intermediary wireless device involved in the transaction, and the appended unencrypted identifying information for the user of the

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wireless device that transmitted the final transaction record to the wireless device interested in completing the transaction;

e2)　decoding the encrypted identifying information for the user of each intermediary wireless device involved in the transaction and for the user of

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the first wireless device;

e3)　completing the transaction between the first wireless device's user and the user of the wireless device interested in completing the transaction; and

e4)   distributing to the user of each intermediary wireless device involved

in the transaction and to the user of the first wireless device their appropriate

shares of transaction proceeds.

5   14. The method of claim 13, wherein the decoding step (e2), further includes the

steps of:

(e2i)   contacting the website of the user of the wireless device that

transmitted the final transaction record to the wireless device

interested in completing the transaction via the appended unencrypted

identifying information;

(e2ii)   requesting therefrom the unencrypted identifying information

of the user of the wireless device from which the request was

received; and

(e2iii)   repeating steps (e2i) and (e2ii) until the identifying

information for the user of the first wireless device is decoded

15. The method of claim 13, wherein the decoding step (e2), further includes the

steps of:

(e2i)   contacting the website of the user of the wireless device that

20   transmitted the final transaction record to the wireless device

interested in completing the transaction using the appended

unencrypted identifying information;

(e2ii)   accessing the associated public key via the pointer to decode

encrypted identifying information, wherein the associated public key

only decodes the identifying information for the user of the wireless

device from which the request was received; and

(e2iii)   repeating steps (e2i) and (e2ii) until the encrypted identifying

information for the user of the first wireless device is decoded.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein the completing step (e3) further includes the

step of:

(e3i)   notifying the user of the first wireless device of the transaction

via electronic mail.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein the completing step (e3) further includes the

step of:

(e3ii)   notifying the user of the first wireless device of the transaction

via a bulletin board posting on a web site for the facilitator.

18. The method of claim 11, wherein the transaction record further includes a

counter for counting a number of times the transaction record has been transmitted from the

first plurality of enabled wireless devices, the method further comprising the step of:

f)   terminating the transaction if the number of times the transaction record has

been transmitted exceeds a preset value.

19. The method of claim 18, further comprising the step of:

g)   terminating the transaction if the expiration time and date has expired.

20. The method of claim 1, wherein the entering step (b) further comprises the step

of:

b2)   using a desktop computer system to create the transaction record, and

transferring the transaction record to the enabled wireless device.

21. A system for brokering a transaction between a plurality of wireless

communication devices comprising:

a first wireless device enabled to communicate with a plurality of enabled wireless

devices; and

a third party facilitator accessible to a user of the first wireless device and users of

the plurality of enabled wireless devices after registration via a network;

wherein a request related to an object to be brokered is entered by a user into the first

wireless device and transmitted to the plurality of enabled wireless devices; wherein a user

of one of the plurality of wireless devices submits a response to the third party facilitator if

the user of the one wireless device is interested in completing the transaction, and the third

party facilitator completes the transaction between the user of the one wireless device and

the user of the first wireless device.

22. The system of claim 21 further including a first broker device, wherein the first broker device receives the request from the first wireless device, modifies the request, and transmits the modified request to the one wireless device.

23. The system of claim 22, wherein the first broker device modifies the request by changing price information to create a profit for the first broker device's involvement in the transaction.

24. The system of claim 23, wherein the first broker device further modifies the request by encrypting identifying information related to a user of the wireless device from which the request was received, and by appending to the request the identifying information for the user of the first broker device, such that a wireless device receiving the modified request from the first broker device is aware of the first broker device's user's identity only.

25. The system of claim 24, wherein the first broker device transmits the modified request to a second broker device, wherein the second broker device similarly modifies the modified request and transmits the twice modified request to the one wireless device.

26. The system of claim 25, wherein the identifying information includes an address for a website for a user of a wireless device and a pointer to a public key associated with the user in the website.

27. The system of claim 26, wherein the third party facilitator receives the response from the user of the one wireless device, the response including a final modified request, wherein the final modified request includes final price information, the encrypted identifying information for the user of the first broker device and the user of the first wireless device, and the unencrypted identifying information for the user of the second broker device that transmitted the final modified request to the one wireless device.

28. The system of claim 27, wherein the third party facilitator decodes the encrypted identifying information for the user of the first broker device by using the public key associated with the user of the second broker device.

29. The system of claim 28, wherein the third party facilitator decodes the encrypted identifying information for the user of the first wireless device by using the public key associated with the user of the first broker device and notifies the first wireless device's user of the transaction.

30. The system of claim 29, wherein the third party facilitator collects payment for the object and distributes payment to the users of the first broker device, the second broker device and the first wireless device.

31. The system of claim 21, wherein the plurality of wireless communication devices are Bluetooth enabled devices.

32. The system of claim 21, wherein the third party facilitator is a server coupled to a network.

33. The system of claim 21, wherein the third party facilitator is a server coupled to an Internet.

34. A method for brokering a transaction using a plurality of wireless devices comprising the steps of:

a)   enabling a first wireless device to automatically establish communications with a plurality of similarly enabled wireless devices;

b)   allowing a user to enter a request related to an object to be brokered into the first wireless device;

c)   transmitting the request from the first wireless device to each of the plurality of enabled wireless devices;

d)   responding to the request by a user of one of the plurality of enabled wireless devices interested in completing the transaction by submitting a response to a third party facilitator; and

e)   completing the transaction by the third party facilitator.

35. The method of claim 34, wherein the first wireless device transmits the request to a first plurality of wireless devices and no users of the first plurality of enabled wireless devices are interested in completing the transaction, the method further including the steps of:

f)   modifying the request in each one of the first plurality of enabled wireless devices; and

f)   transmitting the modified request from each one of the first plurality of enabled wireless devices to a second plurality of enabled wireless devices, thereby increasing distribution exponentially.

36. The method of claim 35, wherein the modifying step (f) further includes the steps of:

(f1)   changing price information to create a profit for the one device's involvement in the transaction ;

(f2)   encrypting data that identifies a user of the wireless device from which the request was received, thereby protecting the one device's profit in the transaction; and

(f3)   appending unencrypted identifying information for a user of the one device; wherein by encrypting the data and appending the unencrypted identifying information, the second plurality of wireless devices is aware only of the one device's user's identity.

37. The method of claim 36 further including the step of:

g)   repeating steps (f) and (g) until the user of the one wireless device is located.

38. The method of claim 37 further comprising the step of:

h)   terminating the transaction if a number of times the request has been

transmitted exceeds a predetermined value and the user of the one wireless

device has not been located.

39. The method of claim 37 further comprising the step of:

i)   terminating the transaction if a preset expiration time and date has expired

and the user of the one wireless device has not been located.

40. The method of claim 34, wherein the plurality of wireless devices are Bluetooth

enabled devices.

41. A method for facilitating a brokered transaction between a plurality of wireless

communication devices, wherein the brokered transaction involves a seller device and a

buyer device, the method comprising the steps of:

a)   providing a plurality of broker devices to disseminate an offer for sale of an

item propagated by a user of the seller device;

b)   receiving in a facilitator a response from a user of the buyer device to the

offer for sale, the response including a final transaction record, wherein the final

transaction record includes encrypted identifying information for all but one users of

the plurality of broker devices, encrypted identifying information for the user of the

seller device, and unencrypted identifying information for a user of one broker

device;

c) decoding the encrypted identifying information for the all but one users of the plurality of broker devices and for the user of the seller device; and

d) completing the transaction between the users of the plurality of broker devices, the seller device, and the buyer device.

42. The method of claim 41, wherein identifying information includes a pointer to a public key associated with a user of a device in a website for the user, the decoding step (c) further comprising the steps of:

c1) identifying the user of the one broker device;

c2) accessing the associated public key to decode the encrypted identifying information for the user of one other of the broker devices; and

c3) repeating step (c2) until all the broker devices' users have been identified and the seller device's user has been identified.

43. The method of claim 42, wherein the completing step (d) further includes the steps of:

d1) notifying the user of the seller device of the transaction via electronic mail and via a bulletin board posting on a web site dedicated to the facilitator;

d2) collecting payment for the item; and

d3) distributing payment to the users of the plurality of broker devices and the seller device.

44. A computer readable medium containing program instructions for brokering a transaction between a plurality of wireless communication devices, the instructions for:

a)   enabling a first wireless device to communicate with a plurality of enabled wireless devices;

b)   allowing a user to enter a request related to an object to be brokered into the first wireless device;

c)   exchanging the request related to the object with a plurality of enabled wireless devices;

d)   receiving a response to the request by a third party facilitator from a user of one wireless device ; and

e)   completing the transaction by the third party facilitator.

45. The computer readable medium of claim 44, wherein the enabling instruction (a) further comprising instructions for:

a1)   loading a software application into the first wireless device.

46. The computer readable medium of claim 45, wherein the instruction for allowing the user to enter a request related further includes the instruction for allowing the user to creat a transaction record for the object, wherein the transaction record includes an item description, price information, expiration time and date, contact information for the third party facilitator, and identifying information for the first wireless device.

47. The computer readable medium of claim 46, wherein the exchanging instruction (c) further includes the instructions for:

c1)   transmitting the request to a first plurality of enabled wireless devices;

c2)   for each one of the plurality of enabled wireless devices receiving the request, modifying the request before transmitting the request on to other devices, wherein the modified request conceals the identifying information for a user of the wireless device from which the request was received; and

c3)   transmitting the modified request from each of the first plurality of enabled wireless devices to a second plurality of enabled wireless devices.

48. The computer readable medium of claim 47 wherein the instruction for modifying the request (c2) further includes instructions for:

c2i)   modifying the transaction record by changing the price information to create a profit for the one enabled wireless device's involvement in the transaction;

c2ii)   encrypting the identifying information for the user of the wireless device from which the request was received; and

c2iii)   appending to the modified transaction record unencrypted identifying information for the user of the one enabled wireless device.

49. The computer readable medium of claim 48, wherein the exchanging instruction (c) further includes the instructions for:

c4)   repeating instructions (c2) and (c3) until the user of the one wireless

device responds to the request.

50. The computer readable medium of claim 49, wherein the transaction completing instruction (e), further includes instructions for:

5 e1) receiving a final transaction record from the one wireless device, wherein the final transaction record includes final price information, the encrypted identifying information for the user of each intermediary wireless device involved in the transaction, and the appended unencrypted identifying information for the user of the wireless device that transmitted the final

10 transaction record to the one wireless device;

e2) decoding the encrypted identifying information for the user of each intermediary wireless device involved in the transaction and for the user of the first wireless device;

e3) completing the transaction between the users of the first wireless

15 device and the one wireless device; and

e4) distributing to the user of each intermediary wireless device involved in the transaction and to the user of the first wireless device their appropriate shares of transaction proceeds.

20 51. The computer readable medium of claim 50, wherein the decoding instruction (e2), further includes instructions for:

(e2i)   contacting the user of the wireless device that transmitted the final transaction record to the one wireless device via the appended unencrypted identifying information;

(e2ii)   requesting therefrom the unencrypted identifying information for the user of the wireless device from which the request was received; and

(e2iii)   repeating steps (e2i) and (e2ii) until the identifying information for the user of the first wireless device is decoded.

52. The computer readable medium of claim 50, wherein the identifying information includes a pointer to a public key associated with a user of a wireless device in a user's website, the decoding instruction (e2), further including instructions for:

(e2i)   identifying the user of the wireless device that transmitted the final transaction record to the one wireless device using the appended unencrypted identifying information;

(e2ii)   accessing the associated public key via the pointer to decode the encrypted identifying information for the user of the wireless device from which the request was received; and

(e2iii)   repeating steps (e2i) and (e2ii) until the encrypted identifying information for the user of the first wireless device is decoded.

53. The computer readable medium of claim 47, wherein the transaction record further includes a counter for counting a number of times the transaction record has been

transmitted from the first plurality of enabled wireless devices, and further comprising instructions for:

f)   terminating the transaction if the number of times the transaction record has been transmitted exceeds a preset value.

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54. The computer readable medium of claim 53, further comprising instructions for:

g)   terminating the transaction if the expiration time and date has expired.